

CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY NEWS

California Biodiversity Council

Spring/Summer 2007 Vol. 14 No. 1



*By
Mike
Chrisman
Co-Chair,
California
Biodiversity
Council*

FROM THE CHAIR

The next meeting of the California Biodiversity Council is just around the corner. This meeting will allow us to look first-hand at an activity that provides both challenge and opportunity for biodiversity conservation in California: Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation. While OHV recreation may at first seem an unlikely subject for the California Biodiversity Council, the field tour and discussion will highlight why it is an issue as stewards of California's natural resources that we should address.

At the upcoming meeting we will examine the tremendous growth related to off-highway vehicle recreation, the need to provide for the opportunity and manage impacts related to off-highway

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

*by Daphne Greene,
California State Parks*

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The mission statement of California State Parks charges the Department with preserving the state's biological diversity and protecting the state's natural and cultural resources, while at the same time providing recreational opportunities for the people of California.

Among the many forms of recreation popular with Californians, off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation has been

among the fastest growing. In 1971, the Legislature recognized the increasing demand for OHV recreation and created the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program within California State Parks. Today, the OHMVR Division of California State Parks manages the program, providing safe, enjoyable recreation while protecting the State's resources. Illustrating the popularity of OHV recreation, one of the most popular State

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Biodiversity Along the Border

*by Lauren McNees,
California Biodiversity Council*

The California Biodiversity Council (CBC), met in September, 2006 for a meeting that became one of its most memorable events in over 15 years. The meeting in Coronado addressed "Biodiversity Along the Border" through collaboration not only among the Council's member agencies, but also with several key Mexican governmental entities.

This 2-day meeting began with a field trip attended by a record-breaking 80+ people, including CBC Members and other interested individuals from the non-profit sector and the general public. The trip began with a stop at the Otay Mesa - Mesa de Otay border area, an area that is considered to be very critical for binational planning ef-

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From the Chair

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vehicle operation, as well as the opportunities for resource management and preservation of open space associated with designating OHV recreation areas. Protecting California's many diverse ecosystems require that we plan ahead. We are obligated to find ways that balance escalating population growth and the demand for recreational opportunities with our need to create and maintain open space. Planning for the future requires an understanding of the demands being placed on California's resources and an exploration of all possible avenues for conservation and the preservation of biodiversity.

A growing population brings with it an increased desire for all types of recreational opportunities, and OHV recreation is no exception. In recent years there has been dramatic growth in OHV recreation. Sales of sport utility vehicles, trucks, dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles have increased exponentially. At this meeting, we will visit two areas where OHV recreational opportunities are being provided and review how local land managers are balancing recreational impacts with resource protection. We will also hear from representatives of two organizations responsible for managing large tracts of land where OHV recreation is provided, the U.S.

Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

On the field trip, we will be visiting Metcalf Motorcycle Park, which is part of the Santa Clara County Parks system and California State Parks' Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area. Both are located near large urban areas and receive high numbers of visitors. The intensive use of these areas requires particular attention be paid to ongoing maintenance of trails, education of visitors, and provision of appropriate enforcement and safety measures to ensure the well-being of the visiting public and protection of the resources. These areas manage the impacts of OHV use while still supporting and maintaining habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species.

Many people don't normally think of OHV recreation areas as opportunities for preserving species diversity. If you have never visited an OHV park, you may carry an image of desolate landscapes and barren earth, of noisy vehicles roaring around with noxious fumes spewing from their tailpipes. In reality, those who manage OHV areas well take special care to monitor and prevent soil erosion and negative impacts on wildlife and plants, to enforce sound laws, and ensure vehicles are properly registered. When looking at

the total area of an OHV park, you may be surprised to see that much of the area is often closed to vehicles. Some parks, such as the State Vehicular Recreation Areas, set aside portions of land that are particularly sensitive as resource areas where no vehicular use is allowed. These resource areas become increasingly significant in the face of encroaching development.

All recreational use of natural lands results in impacts to the environment. Hiking, equestrian use, mountain biking and OHV recreation all have unique impacts and associated management concerns that must be addressed. We cannot just ignore the pressure for increased recreational areas that our state will continue to experience. We must plan for the future and be fully informed on the challenges and opportunities that we will face.

I hope the result of our meeting will be to create a better understanding of the role effectively managed OHV recreation areas in maintaining the state's biological diversity. Moreover, that it will also promote greater recognition of the importance of educating our visitors and constituents, and the need to foster a balanced approach to facility operations. 🌲



Biodiversity Along the Border Committee

by Todd Ferrara,
California Resources Agency
and
Lauren McNeas,
California Biodiversity Council

At the meeting in San Diego on Sept. 28, 2006 the California Biodiversity Council's Co-Chairs proposed the formation of a "Biodiversity Along the Border Committee" consisting of CBC member agencies, officials from Mexico, and other important partners on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Council members thought it would be a valuable effort, and the committee was formed. The goal for this committee is to cooperatively identify specific recommendations for improving the cross-border issues and programs that were discussed on Sept. 28, 2006.

The Biodiversity Along the Border (BATB) committee has met twice since its formation, with several more meetings planned for the coming months. The committee's first big step was the agreement that a binational committee was a worthwhile objective for the States of California and Baja California, non-duplicative effort worthy of several meetings over the course of a 6-to-12-month period. Additionally, all agreed that a reasonable goal for the project would be a set of recommendations to be shared with Council members and other resource management-related agencies, non-governmental partners and organizations in the border region.

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Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area

by Daphne Greene,
California State Parks

To fully understand Hollister Hills, one must go back more than thirty years, back before Hollister Hills was a State Park. At that time, Hollister Hills was a private ranch owned by Howard Harris. Mr. Harris believed it was important to provide a safe environment in which people could recreate off-pavement. In the mid 1970's, Howard decided to sell the property. When he put the land up for sale he received two offers; one from a developer and one from the State. Even though the developer offered more, Mr. Harris wanted the land to remain an OHV Park and sold it to the State.

Today, Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is a dedicated off-highway vehicle (OHV) park providing well-managed off-highway opportunities for thousands of people from the greater Bay Area and throughout the State. The park consists of 6,600 acres of mixed chaparral, oak woodland, and grassland with trails ranging in elevation from 660 to 2425 feet. At this time approximately 3600 acres is open to the public. Additional acreage is expected to open in mid-2007. Located in the Gabilan Mountains, about one hour south of San Jose, this popular park offers a variety of recreational opportunities for street legal and non-street legal vehicles. There are specially designated

areas for dirt bikes and ATVs, 4x4's, go carts; moto-cross tracks and areas designated for children and small vehicles only.

In the more than three decades since the park opened, the SVRA has attracted people interested in camping, picnicking, hiking and photography along with the thousands who come to the park to enjoy recreating off-pavement. In addition to the active off-highway vehicle recreation, Hollister Hills also has a 288-acre Nature Area which is open to non-motorized activities such as hiking and mountain biking. This area is a great place to hike, observe the wildlife, and bird watch. Another attraction, known to few, is the San Andreas fault which runs right through the middle of the park. This offers the opportunity to see how geology can affect terrain, plants, and wildlife.

The park is divided into two areas. The Lower Ranch consists of 2480-acres designated for motorcycle and ATV use with trails of varying levels of difficulty, dedicated track facilities, day use facilities and campgrounds. Also located in the Lower Ranch is a store which sells snacks, various camping supplies and equipment for recreating off-pavement.

The Upper Ranch is an 870-acre area designated for four-wheel drive

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STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION

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Park units is Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, which had over 2.1 million visitors last year.

The Division operates the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) while supporting OHV recreation on local, state, and federal lands through a grants and cooperative agreements program. Throughout the SVRA system and through the grants and other programs, the Division promotes OHV safety, and protection of sensitive resources.

Some notable facts concerning off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in

California:

- OHV recreation contributes \$11-14 billion annually to the California economy
- In the past five years, ATV registrations have increased 87%
- In the past five years, dirt bike registrations have increased 85%
- Sales of the new, and very popular, Recreational Utility Vehicles have increased 273% in the past three years
- From 1989 to 2004, registrations of street licensed four-wheel drive vehicles increased 1654%

acres. Some have open riding areas while others allow riding on designated trails only. SVRAs are very popular with OHV enthusiasts throughout the State. They are significantly more developed than non-state managed OHV sites, and offer a wide range of facilities and amenities for the diverse groups which use them. Vehicles used for OHV recreation in the SVRAs vary from motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to Jeeps, Sport Utility Vehicles, sand rails, and dune buggies, all of which are used to access and enjoy an array of different recreational opportunities.

Many SVRAs have set aside significant portions of land as off-limits to motorized use. For instance, over half the property managed by Oceano Dunes SVRA is set aside for resource management purposes. Oceano Dunes has the largest visitor attendance of any State Park unit, yet also hosts one of the most successful colonies of the federally listed threatened Western Snowy Plover found in any State Park unit. Seven species currently on the threatened or endangered species list can be found at Carnegie SVRA.

In some instances, the non-motorized lands are completely off-limits to any human activity while other lands are available for less intensive recreational uses such as hiking and bird watching. These non-motorized areas often serve as a buffer between the

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Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area

- Vehicle registrations for non-street licensed vehicles (also known as "green sticker" registrations) rose from 400,000 vehicles in 2000, to over 1,000,000 vehicles in 2006.

SVRAs

The OHMVR Division currently manages eight SVRAs: Prairie City, Carnegie, Hollister Hills, Oceano Dunes, Hungry Valley, Ocotillo Wells, Heber Dunes, and Clay Pit. They range in size from 450 acres to 80,000



Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department Junior Off-Highway Vehicle Ranger Program

by David Pierce, Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department bi-annually conducts a 6-week Jr. Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Ranger Program. The purpose of the program is to engender rider safety, responsibility, and environmental awareness by providing classroom and in-field training at our Motorcycle County Park. We believe the Jr. OHV Ranger program is the only one of its kind in the State of California.

The intent of the program is to establish a positive and responsible approach to the sport of OHV recreation in youngsters who will become our next generation of park stewards. Participants in the program establish a connection (ownership) with the park that carries over into responsible actions while riding in it and other locations.

The program provides a unique opportunity to teach 9-12 year old students safe riding techniques, rider etiquette, and to nurture awareness for the environment.

Classroom training includes topics regarding plant and animal communities within the park, their various habitats, and how all natural resources are interconnected. In addition students receive training in safety and first aid as well as rider techniques. The park is used as an outdoor classroom for these activities. Interpretive displays and talks at the Visitor Center also provide an opportunity to educate participants about the plant life, animals and habitats that exist at Motorcycle County Park.

An added benefit of the program is that the knowledge gained by the young

participants is often shared with their parents or other adults. Thus, the mind-set of responsible riding and environmental awareness often carries over to adults. The Department has seen positive benefits from this program and it has received very strong support from parents, OHV sport enthusiasts and the community. 🌲



Biodiversity Along the Border Committee

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At its first meeting on January 30, 2007, the BATB committee divided itself into two subcommittees: the Las Californias subcommittee and the Tijuana Estuary issues subcommittee. Each subcommittee has considerable information to gather and synthesize. Accordingly, there has been a fair amount of work completed outside of the committee meetings and reported back to the committee of the whole.

The Tijuana Estuary issues subcommittee is researching several issues, the first of which is the feasibility of building a sediment basin in Tijuana to help alleviate the amount of sediment that drains into the Estuary. The group is also exploring the possibility of establishing a conservation easement in Tijuana, which could improve environmental conditions at several sites on both sides of the border. The third and final issue for this group is tire and trash disposal which is a serious environmental challenge for the watershed, impacting citizens on both sides of the border. The interagency participation within the subcommittee has been incredible to date. In only two meetings, this team has made significant progress towards a set of recommendations for projects in the Tijuana River basin. Research and information sharing is ongoing between meetings, and is likely to provide the group as a whole with what it needs to make solid recommendations to the CBC later this year.

The Las Californias subcommittee is tasked with studying and analyzing the recommendations set forth in the

Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative, published in 2004. The Las Californias report identifies some initial considerations for cross-border conservation planning the San Diego-Tijuana-Tecate region. The human population in the region is expected to reach five million soon and land for conservation is disappearing rapidly. The goal for this working group is to draft some recommendations for coordinated regional planning in the border region. At their first meeting, this team discussed the project and made assignments for determining how participating agencies in California might assist their counterparts in Mexico. At the second meeting, most agencies reported that they have the interest and capacity to assist in various ways. The group has not met for two months in order to allow leaders from the Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) to convene a subgroup of agencies in Mexico to draft recommendations for the team. The recommendations from the agencies in Mexico will be the focus of the subcommittee's next meeting. There is a diverse array of agencies and participants in this subcommittee, and each seems very willing to contribute what it can towards finding a common agreement on conservation planning. 🌿

More information on the BATB committee, including notes, agendas, and contact information for participants can be found at <http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/alongthebordercommittee.html>.

STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION

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more intensively used OHV riding areas and surrounding landowners and communities.

The Division is committed to maintaining a proactive resource management program and believes it is essential as OHV use continues to intensify on available land. The Division utilizes environmental scientists at each of the major SVRAs in the system. Regular monitoring of the SVRAs provides data for managers to make informed decisions on how best to manage park resources.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Given the large numbers of visitors engaging in high-intensity active recreation at the SVRAs, accidents are bound to happen. While the percentage of accidents is low, the high volume of visitors results in a large number of calls for medical emergencies. Park Rangers and Maintenance staff in the SVRAs are very adept at handling medical calls and provide vital life saving assistance on a regular basis.

Aside from supporting the SVRAs, Division staff manage a number of statewide programs to promote re-

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STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION

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sponsible OHV recreation.

- The CAL PAL and SNO PAL programs provide at-risk youth the opportunity to learn about OHV recreation, as well as potential careers in the OHV industry.

- The Division provides sound meters to organizations throughout the state to increase compliance with California's sound laws.

- Division public safety staff provide coordination and support to other agencies throughout California (and occasionally in Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, and Hawaii) in the area of OHV law enforcement.

- The Division contracts with other safety organizations to provide training on safe operation of ATVs.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The OHMVR Division has taken a leadership role in developing effective resource management techniques for off-highway vehicle areas. The Division will soon release a comprehensive new set of Soil Standards, developed in cooperation with the California Geological Survey and a multi-agency council. Compliance with these standards will be required in all



Recreationist of all ages enjoy State Parks recreation opportunities

areas managed by the Division, as well as all areas receiving grants from the OHV Program. Efforts are underway to implement the new techniques that will provide a clear and easy way to perform regular facility assessments of roads and trails and guidance for how to repair damage at its source and prevent future impacts.

The Division requires intensive Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans and Habitat Management Plans (WHPP/HMP) at all grant-funded areas and SVRAs. These plans monitor wildlife and vegetation to gauge the impacts caused by OHV recreation. Using an adaptive management approach, management measures can then be designed to minimize disturbances to vegetation and wildlife.

GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

In addition to management of the SVRAs, the Division partners with cities, counties, federal agencies, non-profit and educational institu-

tions, and Native American Tribes to provide funding in the form of grants and cooperative agreements for the provision of managed OHV recreation opportunities. For the past three years, \$18 million per year has been available for allocation. Nearly \$300 million have been provided over the last 27 years. In 2006, more than 200 projects from over 50 organizations were submitted. Over \$40 million in requests were received for a variety of projects including; trail maintenance, scientific research, resource management, restoration, and law enforcement.

Through the Grants and Cooperative Agreements program, the Division supports numerous OHV recreation programs. Grant administrators travel to project areas throughout the State to review progress on funded projects, evaluate the effectiveness of their programs, and share lessons learned.

The Division has also partnered with the U.S. Forest Service in its Route

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STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION

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Designation process in California. Over the last five years, the OHMVR Commission has allocated \$11.9 million in cooperative agreements to the Forest Service to support this effort. The U.S. Forest Service has inventoried all roads throughout the 18 National Forests in California. The next step will be to designate a system of routes to provide a managed network of roads and trails.

THE FUTURE OF OHV RECREATION

As the California population continues to grow and the popularity of OHV recreation increases, innovative

management of this form of recreation will become paramount in providing increased recreational opportunities while protecting shrinking open lands. While some would hope to see OHV recreation disappear from the California landscape, it is not going to go away. The demand is there. Regardless of how people feel about OHV recreation, as land managers, we can't afford to close our eyes to the increases in the demand for recreational opportunities. We must approach this challenge thoughtfully and responsibly. Through smart planning and careful management, we can provide opportunities for responsible enthusiasts to engage in their preferred form of recreation in a sustainable fashion.

The importance of providing families the chance to recreate together, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, cannot be minimized. This is the essence of California State Parks and the opportunities provided by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. 🌲



Recreationist of all ages enjoy State Parks recreation opportunities

Hollister Hills

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recreation. It includes an obstacle course and two campgrounds. Trails are designed to provide an enjoyable experience to recreationists of all abilities, while preventing unnecessary soil erosion. Facilities located in the Upper Ranch include the Grand Prix Track (GP Track) and Area 5. The GP Track covers roughly 92 acres and is a world class track where national motocross and cross country motorcycle races are held. Area 5 is a special use facility open to large groups for day use and camping.

The recorded history of Hollister began in 1839 with the granting of the 54,000 acre Rancho San Justo and Rancho Cienega. In 1848, it is reported that John C. Fremont, camped near the present day entrance station following an encounter with the Mexican government. Purchased in 1865 by Jesse Whitton, the property was successively developed and ranch roads installed to ranch and farm for hay, cattle, vegetables, and fruit. In 1941, Howard Harris, great-grandson of Jesse Whitton, discovered magnesium on the Upper Ranch and sold 230 acres to finance purchase of 2400 acres, which became the Lower Ranch.

In 1947, the first off-highway vehicles were allowed on the property as way to better secure the boundaries and to control illegal trespass. In 1956, Howard Harris opened the park to motorcycle groups, and in 1958 the

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Hollister Hills

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first major event was held. Mr. Harris had the support of the local community, which encouraged people to use the property instead of riding illegally on other private lands.

In 1970, Howard Harris opened the Hollister Hills Motorcycle Playground to the general public. Harris used his academic training in geology to control soil erosion and conduct geology and nature walks on the property. Howard Harris sold the park in 1975 to California State Parks.

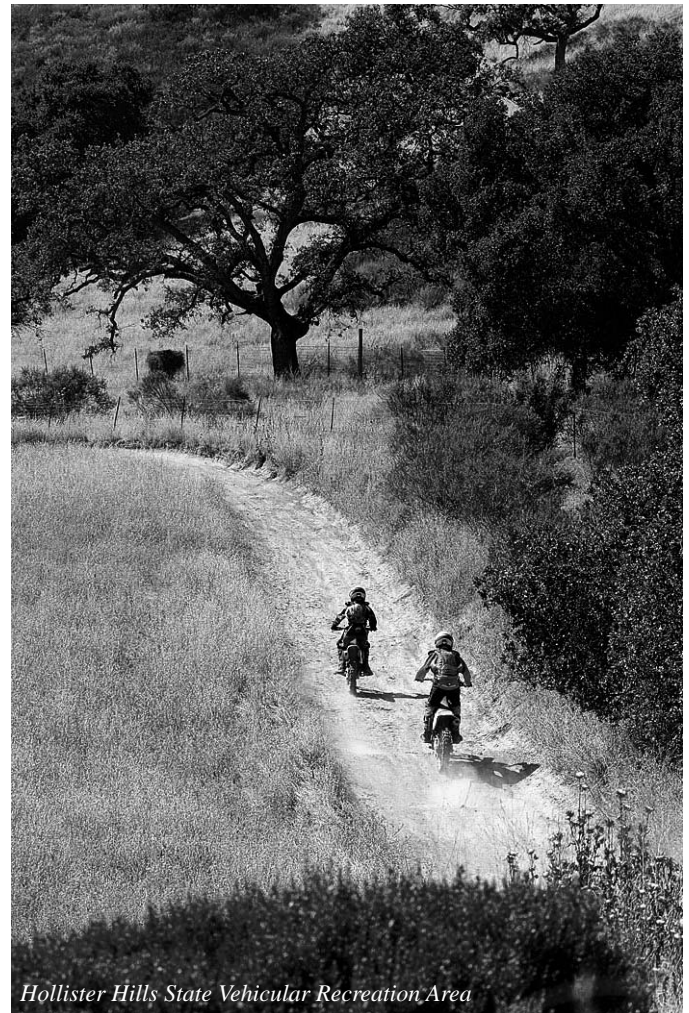
Resource protection is an integral part of the SVRA. The main objective of the park is to sustain high-quality off-highway vehicle recreation in a way which provides a well-managed facility and protects the natural and cultural resources. Historically there have been a number of changes in the vegetation since pristine times. Areas which formerly supported riparian growth and oak trees were developed for agriculture and planted with walnut orchards and vineyards. In addition, quarrying for limestone and dolomite opened the land and exposed the underlying materials.

Park attendance is increasing every year. The types of vehicles visitors bring to the park continue to evolve. Each year the challenge of balancing visitors demands with protection of the natural resources increases. Even in its current altered state the park provides wonderful habitat for wildlife.

There are a number of threatened and endangered species at the park which must be protected from the impacts of off-highway vehicle recreation including the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and the California tiger salamander (CTS).

Development of sediment basins to catch soil runoff has provided breeding and summering habitat for these two species. To ensure their continued protection, the basins being utilized by CRLF and CTS have been fenced off to prevent inadvertent access by motor vehicles. The basins are also monitored before any maintenance is performed to ensure CRLF and CTS are not present and will not be impacted. Annual monitoring is conducted to ensure the populations of these, and other native animals, are continuing to thrive.

The vegetation within the park is also managed to ensure native species are not being replaced by exotic species. A number of invasive exotic plants have been removed from the park. When revegetation of an area is



Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area

necessary, only plant species native to the park are used. Trees are protected within the park and new seedlings propagated from local stock have been planted. Rice straw bales are used to prevent inadvertent introduction of exotic species.

Hollister Hills is a unique park, rich in cultural and natural resources with a long history of providing recreational opportunities. California State Parks is striving to protect this irreplaceable special and valuable place to ensure it is available to future generations. Only through responsible management can this be accomplished. 🌿



Biodiversity Along the Border

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forts with Tijuana. There participants learned about the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative, a vision for habitat conservation in the border region.

By early afternoon, the field trip reached its main destination, Los Laureles Canyon, a critical sub-basin of the Tijuana River Watershed. The Los Laureles Canyon drains directly into the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) in California and is a major source of sediment and waste in the Estuary. The sub-basin has become increasingly degraded by development that lacks the most basic infrastructure. An impressive ceremony took place in this canyon with city of Tijuana officials, including Mayor Jorge Hank Rhon, and California representatives including CBC Co-Chair and BLM State Director Mike Pool, SANDAG Board Member and City of Del Mar Mayor Crystal Crawford, Imperial Beach City Councilmember Patricia McCoy, State Coastal

Conservancy Executive Officer Sam Schuchat, and California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. The ceremony dedicated a playground facility to the residents of Los Laureles. But more importantly, the ceremony signified an agreement of cooperation from both sides of the border to work towards improving conditions in Los Laureles and TRNERR. As any member of the

His fascinating talk enlightened CBC participants about the history of the area they'd come to study for two days.

The second day of "Biodiversity Along the Border" was held in Coronado and consisted of presentations and discussions of the border-area conservation topics seen the day before. The CBC and audience heard

first from Jerre Stallcup, Conservation Biology Institute and Dr. Paul Ganster, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, SDSU, with an overview of existing and potential Trans-border Cooperation in the California - Baja California Borderlands. Next, Dr. Scott Morrison (The Nature Conservancy)

and Miguel Angel Vargas and Fernando Ochoa (Pronatura) presented on the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative: A vision for habitat conservation in the California-Baja California borderlands. Oscar Romo (Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, California State Parks) offered a video and talk about



Field trip participants walk down Los Laureles Canyon in Tijuana

planning committee could testify, planning an international field trip for a large group amidst heightened border security was not easy, but it was well worth all the work. CBC Members will remember it for years to come.

The day's field trip was followed by a dinner in Coronado with featured speaker Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

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Biodiversity Along the Border

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Los Laureles Canyon, his project's accomplishments, and some ways in which the CBC might be able to contribute to his efforts. Finally, Elisa Arias (San Diego Association of Governments) informed the group of the Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Binational Corridor Strategic Plan, a cross-border collaborative planning effort headed by SANDAG.

In addition to the talks and presentations, the day's highlights included the signing of an MOU by the Honorable Jorge Hank Rhon, Mayor, City of Tijuana and Ruth Coleman, Director,

California State Parks. The MOU establishes "a common interest for the environmental health of the Tijuana River Estuary, as has been demonstrated by cooperative efforts focused in the "Laureles" canyon by creating a land use plan, as well as the work focused on the creation of a model community of sustainable design and environmental sensitivity." In the afternoon, in response to the wealth of information received over the course of two days, the Council decided to take some action. At the proposal of the Co-Chairs, the CBC agreed to form a new "Biodiversity Along the Border Committee" that would consist

of CBC member agencies, officials from Mexico, and other key partners. The purpose of the committee was described in a memo from the Co-Chairs as "to explore the feasibility of implementing the following proposed projects: 1) Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative, 2) Conservation Easements, and 3) Tijuana River Valley Management. The formation of a binational committee to implement these projects recognizes that a coordinated approach to managing natural resources between the two states requires frequent dialogue. The committee's first meeting was on January 30, 2007 in Imperial Beach. 🌿



CBC Members participate in the "Park Inauguration" in Los Laureles Canyon in Tijuana



Eyes & Ears

Reading

Lives Per Gallon by Terry Tamminen, former Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and current Special Advisor to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In his controversial new book, Tamminen takes a hard look at health, environmental, and national security costs hidden in every barrel of oil. Available for \$18.71 from Island Press at <http://www.islandpress.com>.

This Moment on Earth: Today's New Environmentalists and Their Vision for the Future by John Kerry and Teresa Heinz Kerry. This book combines intensive research with keenly observed personal experiences to present a portrait of Americans devoted to the natural diversity and spectacular uniqueness of our country. Available from <http://www.amazon.com> for \$14.99.

Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra. An entirely engrossing debut from a writer who has drawn comparisons to Edward Abbey, John McPhee, and Wallace Stegner, Jordan Fisher Smith's startling account of fourteen years as a park ranger thoroughly dispels our idealized visions of life in the great outdoors. Available from <http://www.amazon.com> for \$11.86.

Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins. Three top strategists show how leading-edge companies are practicing "a new type of industrialism" that is more efficient and profitable while saving the environment and creating jobs. Available from the Rocky Mountain Institute, <http://www.rmi.org>, for \$26.95.

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan examines the way we eat, which represents our most profound engagement with the natural world. Available from <http://www.amazon.com> for \$16.17.

The New Economy of Nature: The Quest To Make Conservation Profitable by Gretchen Daily and Katherine Ellison, offers an engaging and informative look at a new "new economy," a system recognizing the economic value of natural systems and the potential profits in protecting them. Available from <http://www.powells.com> for \$24.95.

A Leaky Tent is a Piece of Paradise: 20 Young Writers on Finding a Place in the Natural World. Warning: This is not your parents' nature writing! A distinctly contemporary take on the genre, *A Leaky Tent Is a Piece of Paradise* features original essays by twenty gifted writers, all thirty and under, whose strong and diverse voices redefine nature writing for the twenty-first century. Available from UC Press, \$19.95, at <http://www.ucpress.edu/>.

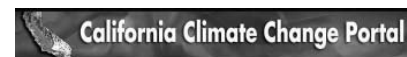
Digital Resources



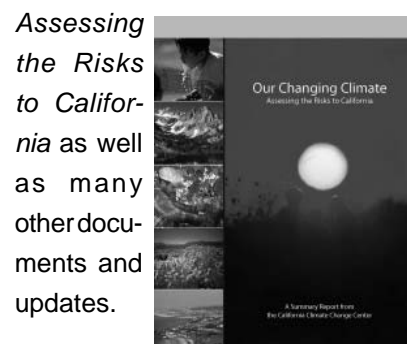
Planet Earth, an 11-episode series by BBC and the Discovery Channel. You'll be amazed by never-

before-seen animal behaviors and startling views of locations captured by cameras for the first time. Rent it at your local store or buy it from the Discovery Channel store. Go to the Discovery Channel website for your "Guide to the Planet" and other cool interactive features.

<http://dsc.discovery.com/guides/planetearth/planetearth.html>



The California Climate Change Portal is an excellent source for information on the impacts of climate change in California and information on the state's policies on global warming. Managed by the Climate Action Team, this website features reports by the California Energy Commission as well as press releases and fact sheets on Governor Schwarzenegger's climate-related policies. Go to <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov> to read the newest report, *Our Changing Climate: Assessing the Risks*.



Upcoming Events

April 16- April 18, 2007 **BioCycle West Coast Conference 2007**
Composting, Organics Recycling & Renewable Energy: Sustainable Solutions In Action

Sponsor: California Integrated Waste Management Board
Location: San Diego, California
Contact: Rill Goldstein, biocycle@jgpress.com
<http://www.jgpress.com/>

April 19, 2007 **Water Resource Coordinating Conference**
Sponsor: UC Center for Water Resources
Location: Woodland, California
Contact: (951) 827-4327
<http://lib.berkeley.edu/WRCA/>

Oct. 3- Oct. 4, 2007 **California Biodiversity Council Meeting**
Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council
Location: TBD, California
Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845
lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov
<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>

Dec. 12, 2007 **California Biodiversity Council Meeting**
Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council
Location: Sacramento, California
Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845
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<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>

Where has the California Biodiversity Council been in the past and where will it go in the future?

Klamath/North Coast Bioregion:

March 1994, Redding: Watershed, Landscape, & Bioregional Group Needs
September 1995, Eureka: Watershed Restoration and Protection: Funding, Information Sharing, Agency Representation, and Public Participation
June 1999, Fort Bragg: North Coast Watershed and Fisheries Issues

Bay/Delta Bioregion:

March 1995, Napa: Open Space Preservation & Watershed Planning
June 1995, Elk Grove: Education, Communication, and Collaboration Between Stakeholders
March 1998, San Francisco: Sustaining the Environmental and Economic Health of the San Francisco Bay
September 2000, Rohnert Park: Current Issues in Northern California

Central Coast Bioregion:

June 1994, Morro Bay: Protection of Hardwood Rangeland, Habitats, & Watersheds
March 1996, Monterey: Creating Linkages between Land Use and the Health of the Monterey Bay
November 2000, Santa Barbara: California's Ocean and Coastal Resources

South Coast Bioregion:

December 1994, San Diego: Coordinated Conservation Planning & Legislative Protection
September 1996, Oxnard: Watershed Planning & Management – Balancing the Needs of Growing Human Populations while Protecting the Natural Environment
June 2000, Camp Pendleton: Challenges Facing Military Installations in CA
June 2001, Los Angeles: Re-greening LA
January 2002, Santa Ana: Governance in the Santa Ana River Basin
November 2002, Pasadena: Infrastructure & Community Planning in Urban Counties
July 2004, Lake Arrowhead: Increasing Cooperation for Better Fire Protection
June 2005, Long Beach: Ocean and Coastal Economic Summit
September 2006, Coronado: Biodiversity Along the Border

Modoc Bioregion:

November 1998, Susanville: Sustaining Rangelands, Forests, and Com-

munities

August 2002, Alturas: Changing Landscapes in Northern California

Sacramento Valley Bioregion:

March 2001, Chico: Linking Conservation Efforts in Watersheds
February 2003, Sacramento: Environmental Justice in California
July 2003, Sacramento: California Water, Today and Tomorrow
October 2003, Sacramento: Watershed Management Coordination
December 2005, Sacramento: Invasive Species Management

Sierra Bioregion:

September 1994, El Portal: Opportunities and Needs of Sierran Watershed, Landscape & Bioregional Groups
June 1996, Nevada City: Fire Planning and Management
September 1997, Mammoth Lakes: Balancing Biodiversity & a Recreation-Based Economy
October 1999, Granlibakken: Lake Tahoe – Challenges & Opportunities
October 2001, Fish Camp: Community Fire Protection

San Joaquin Valley Bioregion:

March 1997, Visalia: Linkages in the Land and the People
November 2001, Modesto: Conserving Agricultural Lands and Habitat amid Population Growth Pressures
April 2006, Merced: Cooperative Conservation in the Central Valley

Mojave Bioregion:

December 1995, Barstow: Conserving Biological Diversity through Cooperative Partnerships

Colorado Desert Bioregion:

April 2000, Palm Springs: Conserving Biodiversity in Rapid Growth Areas
March 2002, Yuma, Arizona: Bridging Borders via the Colorado River

If you have ideas for places or topics for future California Biodiversity Council meetings, please submit them to the Executive Committee.





The California Biodiversity Council approaches biological conservation in California at a bioregional scale. These bioregions are primarily based upon the state's physiographic provinces.

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The California Biodiversity Council was established in 1991 by the Agreement on Biological Diversity to cooperate, communicate, and foster regional efforts to promote biodiversity conservation and consistent economic development.

How can the *California Biodiversity News* help you?

I would like to see more information on: _____

Other comments and suggestions: _____

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